

## COMPOSITION AND METHOD FOR IMPROVING FUNCTION OF EMBRYONIC KIDNEY TRANSPLANTS

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*DMS-B*

Related Applications

~~This application claims continuing status to U.S. Appl. No. 60/070,457, filed January 5, 1998.~~

10 **Background of the Invention:**

The metanephric kidneys originate during the fifth week of gestation in humans, during day 12 of embryonic rat development, and during day 20-28 of embryonic pig development, when outgrowths of the mesonephric ducts, so-called ureteric buds, collect about their distal ends, intermediate mesoderm (metanephric blastema) 15 located caudal to the mesonephros. The outgrowths push radially into the surrounding mass of metanephric blastema and give rise to the collecting ducts of the kidneys. The proximal ends of the ureteric bud give rise to the ureter and renal pelvis. The metanephric blastema differentiates into all of the tubular structures of the adult nephron with the exception of the collecting system. The origin of the 20 glomerular blood vessels, is in part, extrametanephric.

Studies of metanephric organ culture have shown that kidney development *in vitro* is dependent upon the expression of a number of polypeptides within the developing organ. Blocking the expression or action of any of transforming growth factor alpha (TGF- $\alpha$ ), hepatocyte growth factor (HGF), insulin-like growth factor I (IGF I) or 25 insulin-like growth factor II (IGF II), inhibits metanephric growth and development *in vitro* (Hamerman MR, Seminars in Nephrology (1995) 15:291-299). Vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), is also produced by developing kidneys. Blocking VEGF activity *in vivo* inhibits renal vascularization (Kitamano et al., J. Clin. Invest. 99:

(1997) 2351-2357). Exposure of developing metanephroi to vitamin A stimulates glomerulogenesis *in vitro* (Vilar *et al.*, Kidn. Intl. **49**: (1995) 1478-1487).

Once renal development is complete in a mammal, no new nephrons form. The loss of renal functional mass that occurs following insults to the adult kidney is

5 compensated, in the short term, by hypertrophy and hyperfunction of the remaining nephrons. However, these compensatory changes are often transient and under some circumstances maladaptive in that they may lead to further loss of renal function.

End-stage chronic renal failure afflicts more than 250,000 individuals in the United

10 States alone, most of whom are treated using dialysis, a treatment with considerable morbidity. Another treatment is renal allotransplantation, which is limited by the number of available organs for transplantation. A possible solution to the lack of organ availability is the use of renal xenografts. The clinical renal xenografts performed to date have utilized primate donors, because the closer species are

15 phylogenetically, the more easily xenografts are accepted. The clinical experience with the use of primates as kidney donors dates from the 1960s. However, the results of xenografting of kidneys has been unsatisfactory, and this technique has remained an experimental one for three decades.

Another possible solution to the lack of organ availability is the transplantation of

20 developing kidneys (metanephric allografts or xenografts). The allotransplantation of developing metanephroi into adult animals has been attempted by several investigators. Woolf *et al.* (Kidn. Intl., (1990) **38**:991-997) implanted pieces of sectioned metanephroi originating from embryonic mice into the cortex of kidneys of outbred mice. Differentiation and growth of donor nephrons occurred in the host

25 kidney. Glomeruli were vascularized, mature proximal tubules were formed and extensions of metanephric tubules into the renal medulla were observed. Glomerular filtration was demonstrable in donor nephrons. In contrast to the case in newborn mice, metanephric tissue transplanted into adult mice neither grew nor differentiated, but was extruded as a poorly differentiated mass under the renal capsule.

30 Abrahamson *et al.* (Lab. Invest. (1991) **64**:629-639) implanted metanephroi from day 17 rat embryos beneath the renal capsule of adult rat hosts. Within 9-10 days post-

implantation, every graft became vascularized, new nephrons were induced to form and glomerular and tubular cytodifferentiation occurred. However, signs of rejection such as hypercellular glomeruli and lymphocytic infiltrates in peritubular spaces were obvious by 10 days post-transplantation.

- 5     Robert et al. (Am. J. Physiol., (1996) 271:F744-F753) grafted metanephroi from embryonic day 12 mouse embryos into kidney cortices of adult and newborn mouse hosts. They demonstrated that by 7 days post-transplantation, grafts into both newborn and adult hosts were vascularized by components originating from both donor and host.
- 10    Barakat and Harrison (J. Anat., (1971) 110:393-407) transplanted sections of embryonic rat metanephroi into a subcutaneous site in the abdominal wall of closely related or unrelated adult rats. Lymphocytic infiltration of the graft and replacement of the graft by fibrosis occurred in both related and unrelated adult hosts, but was more rapid in the unrelated hosts.
- 15    Growth factors have been used for the purpose of reducing transplant rejection and improving transplant function. U.S. Pat. No. 5,135,915 to Czarniecki et al., describes immersing grafts in a formulation comprising transforming growth factor for a period of a few minutes up to several days prior to transplantation. The pretreatment with TGF- $\beta$  purportedly reduces transplant rejection. U.S. Pat. No. 5,728,676, to Halloran
- 20    describes the administration of insulin-like growth factor (IGF) before, during, or after organ transplantation for the purpose of inhibiting transplant rejection. In a canine renal autotransplantation model, it was found that storing the removed kidneys in a preservation solution supplemented with IGF-I for a period of 24 hours prior to transplantation back into the dog, significantly improved renal function for the first 5
- 25    days following transplantation (Petrinec et al., Surgery (1996) 120(2):221-226).

**Summary of the Invention:**

A method and composition for enhancing the development of metanephric tissue upon transplantation into an allogenic or xenogenic host are disclosed. Metanephric tissue is removed from an embryonic donor and is contacted with a composition comprising one or more growth factors for metanephric development. The composition can be administered to the metanephric tissue *in vitro* prior to

implantation of the donor tissue in the transplant recipient, or can be administered *in vivo* either during or subsequent to the transplantation procedure.

**Detailed Description of the Invention:**

The methods described in published European application no. 0 853 942 A2 are applicable to the present invention. The entire contents of that application are incorporated herein by reference. To summarize, that application describes the transplantation of metanephric tissue from an embryonic mammalian donor to an allogenic or xenogenic mammalian recipient. The recipient can be at any developmental stage, including juvenile and adult. A preferred recipient is a human with reduced renal function. The metanephric tissue is taken from the donor at a suitable stage of development, typically within 1 to 5 days after the metanephros begins formation, and is implanted into the recipient either within the omentum, preferably adjacent a host kidney, or under the renal capsule of a host kidney. The metanephric tissue grows and becomes vascularized, in large part by the recipient to form a chimeric kidney. The chimeric kidney develops to form mature structures, including a ureter, which can externalize urine formed by the chimeric kidney after connection to the host's excretory system.

In experiments where rat metanephric allografts were transplanted into the abdominal cavity of non-inbred adult rat hosts, the metanephric tissue developed into functioning chimeric kidneys which were not rejected by the host for as long as 32 weeks after transplantation. It is believed that the vascularization of the metanephric tissue by the recipient facilitates the acceptance of the transplant. In contrast, when developed kidneys from adult rat donors are transplanted into non-inbred adult rat hosts, they are rejected within 7 days.

25 The present invention is directed to the further discovery that growth factor treatment of the metanephric tissue before, during, and/or after transplantation, enhances the development and functioning of the chimeric kidney. In addition, the removal of host renal tissue prior to transplantation of the donor metanephric tissue further enhances development of the chimeric kidney.

30 As used herein, the phrase "growth factor for metanephric development" refers to any molecule that promotes the growth, proliferation, and/or differentiation of metanephric

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tissue. Thus, the phrase encompasses growth factors, ligands that bind to growth factor receptors, vitamins, and other molecules that assist in the development of metanephric tissue. The phrase also encompasses molecules that stimulate endogenous production of growth factors for metanephric development either by the

5 donor metanephric tissue or by the transplant recipient. For example, somatotropin is known to stimulate IGF-I production. Whether a particular growth factor assists in metanephric development can be readily determined by routine experimentation using the procedures described herein.

Presently preferred growth factors include transferrin, prostaglandin E<sub>1</sub> (PGE<sub>1</sub>),

10 sodium selenite, ligands of the EGF-receptor such as transforming growth factor alpha, epidermal growth factor (EGF), and amphiregulin; insulin-like growth factors (IGFs), particularly IGF-I and IGF-II; vitamin A and derivatives thereof such as retinoic acid; vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF); hepatocyte growth factor (HGF), nerve growth factor (NGF), cytokines such as TGF- $\beta$  and other members of

15 the TGF- $\beta$  family (see Atrisano et al., J. Biochemica et Biophysica Acta (1994) 1222:71-80), and growth hormone (GH) (see Hammerman, M.R., Seminars in Nephrology (1995)). Using known procedures, it can readily be determined whether a particular factor serves as growth factor for the developing metanephroi. For example, in cultures of metanephroi, antibodies can be used to block the action, if

20 any, of a certain factor. An inhibition of development compared to controls indicates whether the factor acts as a growth factor for metanephroi development. As another method, comparisons of development of metanephroi in culture with and without supplements can be used to determine whether a certain factor acts as a growth factor (see Hammerman et al. Pediatr Nephrol (1993) 7(5):616-620; Hammerman

25 MR, Seminars in Nephrology (1995) 15:291-299; Schofield PN and Boulter CA, Exp'l Nephrology (1996) 4:97-104; Pugh et al. Kidney Int (1995) 47(3):774-781; Humes et al., Lab Invest (1991) 64(4):538-545; and Vilar et al. Kidney Int. (1996) 49(5): 1478-1487).

The metanephros can be treated with a single growth factor that enhances

30 development, or combinations of growth factors can be administered either sequentially, or as a growth factor cocktail. Preferred growth factor cocktails comprise any combination of two or more of the following growth factors: transferrin, PGE<sub>1</sub>, sodium selenite, nerve growth factor, fibroblast growth factor (FGF), platelet

derived growth factor (PDGF), IGF-I, IGF-II, TGF- $\alpha$ , TGF- $\beta$ , HGF, and/or VEGF. The growth factors are dissolved in any physiologically-acceptable solution in which the metanephroi can be immersed. Various cell culture media can be used, such as a 50:50 mixture of Dulbecco's modified Eagles medium and Hams F12

5 (DMEM:HF120). Physiological saline is another suitable solution, particularly if the growth factors are administered to the transplant recipient during or after the transplantation procedure. The growth factors are usually used at concentrations ranging from about 1 fg/ml to 1 mg/ml. Concentrations between about 1 to 100 ng/ml are usually sufficient for most growth factors. Simple titration experiments can be

10 performed to readily determine the optimal concentration of a particular growth factor.

Prior to the transplantation procedure, metanephric tissue is harvested from one or more suitable mammalian donors at an appropriate stage of fetal development.

Preferably, the metanephric tissue is harvested soon after the metanephric kidney begins formation and prior to the presence of blood vessels that either originate

15 within the metanephros or from inside or outside the metanephros. If the embryonic renal tissue is harvested too early in development, it may, once implanted into the recipient, differentiate into non-renal tissues such as hair and gut. Tissue harvested too late in the development of the metanephric kidney, for example, tissue having visible blood vessels, may contain more antigen-presenting cells and cell-surface

20 antigens and thus present more of threat of rejection by the recipient. Preferably, the harvested metanephroi contains metanephric blastema, segments of ureteric bud, and nephron precursors, and does not contain glomeruli.

The preferred developmental stage for harvesting the metanephros will vary depending upon the species of donor. Generally, the metanephros is preferably

25 harvested 1 to 5 days after the metanephros forms. Preferably, the metanephros is harvested from 1 to 4 days after the metanephros forms, and more preferably from about 2 to 4 days after metanephros formation. In rats, the metanephros forms on day 12.5 of a 22-day gestation period, and on day 11 of a 19 day gestation period in mice. In these species, a suitable time frame in which to harvest the donor

30 metanephros of mice or rats is typically between the second and fourth day after the metanephros begins formation. Preferably the metanephros is harvested within 3 days after formation of the metanephros begins.

In species having a longer gestation period, the time-frame during which the metanephros is preferably harvested following its formation, can be longer. Generally, the time frame in which the metanephros is harvested will be less than about one fifth of the total gestation period of the donor, preferably less than about 5 one seventh of the total gestation period of the donor, and more preferably, less than about one tenth of the total gestation period of the donor. Table 1 shows the time-course (in days) of metanephros development and gestational period in some vertebrates.

TABLE 1

	Metanephros Formation (days)	Gestational Period (days)
10	Human	35-37
	Macaque	38-39
	Pig	20-30
	Guinea Pig	23
	Rabbit	14
15	Rat	12.5
	Mouse	11
	Hamster	10

Pigs are preferred xenogeneic donors for humans because of their comparable organ size, and availability. Additionally, the digestive, circulatory, respiratory and renal physiologies of pigs are very similar to those of humans. In the case of renal function, the maximal renal concentrating ability ( $1080 \text{ mOsm l}^{-1}$ ), total renal blood flow ( $3.0\text{-}4.4 \text{ ml min}^{-1} \text{ g}^{-1}$ ) and glomerular filtration rates ( $126\text{-}175 \text{ ml min}^{-1} 70 \text{ kg}$ ) of the miniature pig are virtually identical to those of humans (see Sachs DH, Veterinary Immunology and Immunopathology (1994) 43:185-191). The use of metanephroi from transgenic pigs that have been "humanized" to reduce the potential for transplant rejection may provide further advantages (e.g. Pierson et al. J. Heart Lung Transplant (1997) 16:231-239). Pig metanephroi are harvested at about the 10 mm stage. This occurs between approximately embryonic day 20 and embryonic day 30. Human tissue could be used as an allogeneic source for transplantation.

Metanephroi are removed surgically under a dissecting scope and suspended in a suitable holding medium, such as a 1:1 mixture of Dulbecco's modified Eagles Medium and Hams F12 medium (Rogers *et al.* J. Cell Biol. (1991) 113:1447-1453), and placed under sterile conditions, until they are transplanted. It is preferred to use  
5 the whole metanephros, with renal capsule intact, for transplantation. One or more metanephroi may be used per recipient, depending upon the increase in nephron mass that the recipient needs.

If the metanephroi are to be treated with growth factors prior to transplantation, the growth factors can be added directly to the holding medium. When used as a  
10 pretreatment, the growth factor composition exerts a positive effect in a surprisingly short period of time. Significant improvement in the development of the implant can be achieved when the metanephric tissue is contacted with the growth factor composition *in vitro* for less than 24 hours. Preferably, the metanephric tissue is contacted with the growth factor composition *in vitro* for less than 8 hours, and  
15 preferably less than 2 hours. Optimal results can usually be achieved when the metanephric tissue is contacted with the growth factor composition for as little as about 20 to 60 minutes prior to implantation into the transplant recipient.

To transplant the metanephric tissue, surgery is performed on the recipient to expose one or both kidneys. Surgical procedures for renal transplantation are well known in  
20 the art (e.g. Cohn *et al.*, Am. J. Physiol. (1982) 24:F293-F299). The donor metanephroi can be implanted directly under the renal capsule of the recipient's kidney, or into a fold of the omentum where it forms a chimeric kidney that functions independently of the recipient's kidney. The omentum is a membranous structure which connects the bowels. It is a preferred site for the implant, particularly if the  
25 implanted metanephric tissue is intended to replace a malfunctioning or non-functioning kidney which may be removed, either at the time of transplantation or after the donor metanephric tissue develops sufficiently to form a functioning chimeric kidney. Implantation of the metanephric tissue into the omentum is also preferred if it is desired to treat the tissue with growth factors after implantation. The omentum is a  
30 more accessible site for the growth factor treatment compared to underneath the renal capsule of the recipient's kidney. An osmotic pump that provides a steady supply of growth factors could be placed in the omentum next to the implanted tissue. Alternatively, the recipient could receive periodic injections of the growth factors in

the vicinity of the transplant or the growth factors could be delivered in a manner such that they are present in the recipient's blood that circulates through the transplant.

While a donor metanephros can be placed adjacent to any portion of the omentum, it

5   is preferable to implant it in an omental fold which will retain the developing kidney at the site of implantation. It is most preferable to implant the metanephros at an omental fold located near one of the recipient's kidneys, particularly near the ureter, so that the developing ureter of the metanephros can be readily connected to the recipient's excretory system.

10   When implanted into the recipient's kidney, an incision, large enough to receive the donor tissue is made in the fibrous renal capsule that surrounds the recipient kidney. The location of the incision can be anywhere in a viable portion of the recipient kidney, but most conveniently will be at an external border of the kidney that is easily accessible during surgery. The donor tissue is placed between the capsule and the

15   cortex of the recipient kidney.

The implanted metanephroi are allowed to grow and differentiate within the recipient under conditions that allow the metanephric tissue to vascularize and develop to form mature, functioning nephrons. Suitable conditions may include the use of pre or post-operative procedures to prevent rejection of the implant in addition to the use of

20   growth factors that facilitate the development and functioning of the metanephric tissue. In some cases of allogeneic transplantation, there may be no host rejection of the transplanted metanephros. However, in the case of xenogeneic transplantation, rejection prevention measures are typically taken. This is usually done by immunosuppressing the recipient after the transplantation. Cyclosporine A (CSA)

25   treatments can provide sufficient immunosuppression to prevent rejection of the donor tissue. CSA treatment protocols to prevent transplant rejection are known in the medical field. Local immunosuppression techniques are described by Gruber, Transplantation (1992) 54:1-11. In U.S. Pat. No. 5,560,911, antibodies directed against idiotypes on naturally occurring human anti-animal antibodies are disclosed

30   for use in inhibiting xenograft rejection. The anti-idiotypic antibodies are injected into the xenograft recipient in order to bind to the idiotypes expressed on anti-xenograft antibodies. Anti-idiotypic antibodies that bind human anti-pig antibodies, to prevent

rejection of transplanted pig tissues by a human patient are exemplified. Anti-lymphocyte globulins are also known for prevention of transplant rejection (Lacy et al. Diabetes, (1981) 30:285-291). As an alternative to immunosuppression, the implanted metanephros can be treated prior to transplantation to reduce its antigenicity. Exemplary approaches to the reduction of immunogenicity of transplants by surface modification are disclosed by Faustman WO 92/04033 (1992). For xenografts into human transplant recipients, transgenic animals that have been humanized to reduce organ transplant rejection may be used. Finally, agents thought to induce tolerance to transplanted tissue can be administered to recipients such as CTLA4-Ig (Lin et al., J. Exp. Med. (1993) 178:1801-1806).

Metanephric kidneys transplanted using the techniques described herein grow, and become vascularized in large part by the recipient, to form chimeric kidneys. It is believed that the vascularization by the recipient may facilitate the acceptance of transplanted xenogeneic tissue. When implanted into the recipient's kidney, the metanephroi become imbedded into the parenchyma of the recipient kidney. The donor metanephroi begin to form various mature structures that are distinguishable from the structures in the adjacent recipient renal tissue, including mature glomeruli and tubules, renal papilla, and ureter. After a sufficient period of development, it is evident that the glomeruli are capable of filtering plasma. Hence, implantation of the metanephric tissue contributes to an increase in the nephron mass of the recipient.

Filtering glomeruli are evidenced by the detection of urine within the donor metanephroi. This can be done by measuring the levels of urea nitrogen and/or creatinine in fluid aspirated from the donor tissue. Such fluid may be contained within one or more cysts associated with the donor tissue (see Example 1). Urine is defined herein as fluid having a concentration of creatinine and/or urea nitrogen that is higher than the concentration of the corresponding components found in the recipient's plasma. The concentration differential varies, and will be reduced with increased hydration of the recipient. However, generally, the concentration of creatinine in the donor metanephroi will be at least twice the concentration found in the recipient's plasma. The concentration of urea nitrogen in the donor metanephroi will generally be at least fifty percent greater than the concentration of urea nitrogen in the recipient's plasma.

In order to facilitate the externalization of the urine that forms within chimeric kidney, a standard ureter to ureter anastomosis procedure can be used to hook up the ureter that forms from the implanted metanephros with the ureter of a kidney of the recipient. During this procedure, the chimeric kidney can be further treated with

5 growth factors by direct administration of a growth factor-containing composition to the chimeric kidney as it is exposed during the procedure. When the metanephroi are implanted into the omentum of the recipient, externalization of urine can be achieved by linking the ureter directly to the recipient's ureter or bladder. These procedures, and other procedures known in the art for the externalization of urine are

10 summarized in Adult and Pediatric Urology, 3rd Ed., Gillenwater, et al., Eds. ¶¶. 987-994 and 2369-2375 (1996). In some cases, post-transplantation surgery may be unnecessary as the intrarenal transplanted donor kidneys may incorporate into the collecting system of the host.

All cited references are incorporated herein by reference.

15 In order that the invention described herein may be more fully understood, the following examples and are set forth. It should be understood that these examples are for illustrative purposes only and are not to be construed as limiting the scope of the invention in any manner.

Example 1: Allogeneic transplantation of metanephroi into host kidney

20 **Transplantation Methods:**

Whole metanephroi, with renal capsules intact, were removed surgically under a dissecting scope from E15 Sprague-Dawley rat embryos (Harlan, Indianapolis IN), and suspended in saline solution on ice under sterile conditions. Within 45 minutes after removal, four metanephroi per recipient were implanted under the capsule of

25 normal kidneys of 6 week old outbred normal (NL) female Sprague-Dawley rats.

Some of the recipient rats had undergone contralateral nephrectomy (UNX) or unilateral nephrectomy and one-half contralateral kidney infarction (1 1/2 NX) using previously described procedures (Rogers et al., *supra*). Transplanted metanephroi were approximately 700 um in diameter and, as would be expected for this stage of

30 development, contained segments of ureteric bud and some developing nephron precursors, but no glomeruli. When noted, recipient rats received Cyclosporine A

(CSA) beginning post-transplantation (5 mg/kg body weight per day injected subcutaneously) in vehicle (peanut oil). As a control, vehicle only was injected.

## **Structural Development of Metanephroi:**

Four or six weeks later, kidneys were removed from the rats. When recipient kidneys were examined post-transplantation, cysts containing clear fluid surrounded the sites where metanephroi were transplanted under the capsule of NL, UNX or 1 1/2 NX rats. Structures resembling small kidneys approximately 7 mm (7000 um) in diameter were present under the cysts and were embedded into the larger recipient kidney. Thus, the diameter of the transplanted metanephroi had increased 10-fold reflecting a 1000-fold increase in volume. Histological examination of fixed, paraffin-embedded, and sliced sections of the tissue mass stained with hematoxylin and eosin revealed that the structures were integrated into the parenchyma of recipient kidneys, and that clusters of lymphocytes were present at the transplant-recipient interface.

Metanephroi transplanted into kidneys of vehicle-treated rats that had undergone UNX underwent growth, development and vascularization in vivo. They contained mature glomeruli and tubules that could be distinguished from glomeruli and tubules in adjacent recipient renal tissue by their smaller size and different staining characteristics in paraffin sections stained with hematoxylin and eosin. Blood vessels were present in transplanted metanephroi. Some were identifiable as arteries. Glomeruli in transplanted metanephroi contained red blood cells, distinguishing them from glomeruli of rat metanephroi grown in organ culture, in which vascularization does not occur. Cysts were present within the parenchyma of transplanted metanephroi that contained structures resembling a renal papilla. Other structures were lined with transitional epithelium characteristic of the ureter.

Lymphocytes accumulated around the periphery of transplanted metanephroi, but there was no evidence of rejection of tubular or vascular elements. Similar growth, development and vascularization of metanephroi transplanted into rats that had undergone UNX or into kidneys of NL rats were observed.

Metanephroi transplanted into kidneys of CSA-treated 1 1/2 NX rats were examined 4 weeks post-transplantation. Results of such transplants were similar to those into kidneys of vehicle-treated 1 1/2 NX rats except no peripheral lymphocytes were observed.

**Integration of Transplanted Metanephroi into Recipient Renal Tissue:**

To determine whether transplanted metanephroi became integrated into recipient kidneys, kidneys of NL rats 6 week post-transplantation were examined. To clear blood from the organ, kidneys were perfused using a modified Ringers solution

5     injected into the aorta distal to the renal arteries following occlusion of the aorta proximal to the kidneys and transection of the inferior vena cava. This results a blanching of the kidney as blood is replaced by perfusate. Normally, the entire kidney blanches as described by Bortz *et al.* (J. Cell Biol., (1988) 107:811).

10    However, following perfusion of kidneys that contained a transplanted metanephros, blood remained in the transplanted structure relative to the recipient kidney. Most likely, this reflects a reduced perfusion in chimeric blood vessels (derived from transplant and host kidneys) that have been shown to supply transplanted metanephroi relative to perfusion in those supplying the host kidney (Robert *et al.*, Am. J. Physiol., (1996) 271:F744). Blood could be traced into the papilla of the

15    recipient kidney.

Kidneys were stained using tetragonobolus purpurea lectin (TPL), as described by Rogers *et al.*, Am. J. Physiol. (1993) 264:F996, which is expressed in collecting ducts of developing rat kidneys prior to birth and for several weeks following birth, but not in collecting ducts of kidney from adult rats. In adult rat kidney, TPL is expressed in

20    distal tubules and medullary thick ascending limbs of Henle's loop. In recipient kidney tissue, TPL was expressed in cortex within distal tubule and medullary thick ascending limb as would be expected. However, TPL was also expressed in a population of collecting ducts which radiate from the transplanted metanephros into the papilla of the recipient kidney together with blood vessels, evidencing that the

25    collecting system and blood supply of the transplanted metanephros become incorporated into the papilla of the recipient kidney.

**Testing of Chimeric Kidney Function:**

Levels of urea nitrogen and creatinine were measured in aspirated cyst fluid, and in blood from the aorta, and urine from the bladder of the 1 1/2 NX vehicle-treated rats

30    using previously described methods (Rogers *et al.*, *supra*). Levels of urea nitrogen were increased 2.6-fold and 15-fold, respectively, in cyst fluid and bladder urine relative to blood, and levels of creatinine were increased 12-fold and 28-fold,

respectively, as shown in Table 2 (All measurements were made at the time of sacrifice; comparisons were made using the multiple comparison procedure described by C.W. Dunnett, *J. Am. Statistical Assoc.* (1955) 50:1096). Thus, both urea nitrogen and creatinine were concentrated in cyst fluid relative to blood,

5 indicating that the cyst fluid was urine. The concentrations of urea nitrogen and creatinine in the cyst fluid were significantly less than the concentrations in bladder urine, indicating that the cyst urine did not originate from leaked bladder urine. This is consistent with reports that the ability of a 4 week-old kidney (transplanted kidney)

10 to clear the blood of urea nitrogen and creatinine relative to a 10 week-old kidney (recipient kidney), is reduced [Aperia et al., *Am. J. Physiol.*, (1975) 228:1319].

TABLE 2

	Plasma Creatinine/ureaN*	Cyst Fluid Creatinine/ureaN*	Bladder Urine Creatinine/ureaN*
15	1 1/2 NX rats (n=7)		
	1.14±.08/ 53.8±6.3	13.4±2.2/ 136±16	32.3±5/ 800±72
20	<b>Creatinine</b> Plasma<cyst fluid, p<0.01 Cyst fluid<bladder urine, p<0.01	<b>UreaN (urea nitrogen)</b> Plasma<cyst fluid, p<0.01 Cyst fluid<bladder urine, p<0.01	

\*mg/dl

Example 2: Xenogeneic transplantation of metanephroi into host kidney

Metanephroi from N.I.H. Swiss mouse metanephroi (E14) were transplanted underneath the renal capsule of 1 ½ NX Sprague Dawley rats. Following

25 implantation, host rats were treated with cyclosporine A (CSA) (5 mg/kg body weight injected subcutaneously once per day), or vehicle (peanut oil). Four weeks post-transplantation, all that remained of the metanephroi implanted into the kidneys of rats that did not receive CSA treatment was a mass of fibrotic tissue. However, in CSA-treated recipients metanephroi grew, vascularized and developed. The

30 presence of a urothelial-lined cavity containing a renal papilla in the transplanted metanephroi indicated that glomerular filtration occurs in the donor renal tissue.

Example 3: Allogeneic transplantation of metanephroi into host omentum

Metanephroi were dissected from E15 sprague-Dawley rats as previously described in Example 1 and implanted into 6 week old outbred UNX Sprague Dawley rats and into rats that had no native renal tissue removed, in omental folds near the recipients' kidneys. Recipient rats received no immunosuppression post-transplantation.

After 6 weeks, transplanted metanephroi were removed and examined. They had assumed a kidney-like shape in situ, had intact ureters and were approximately one-third the diameter of native kidneys. Sections of transplanted metanephroi were prepared and stained with hematoxylin and eosin. Both cortical and medullary tissue were present. Cortices contained well-developed glomeruli containing red blood cells, proximal tubules with well-developed brush border membranes, and distal tubules. Medullas contained well-developed collecting ducts. Ureters were lined with transitional epithelium. Rare accumulations of lymphocytes were observed, but there was no evidence of rejection of tubular or vascular elements.

15 In contrast to finding in rats that underwent unilateral nephrectomy at the time of implantation, little or no growth of metanephroi occurred when they were implanted in rats that had no native tissue removed.

Example 4: Connection of implanted metanephros to bladder and demonstration of inulin clearance in transplanted metanephroi

20 Metanephroi were dissected from E15 sprague-Dawley rat embryos as previously described in Examples 1 and 3 and implanted within 45 minutes in the omentum of anaesthetized 6 week old female UNX Sprague Dawley (host) rats. During the same surgery, the host rats had undergone unilateral nephrectomy using methods described by Miller et al., Am. J. Physiol (1990) 259:747-751.

25 Six weeks following transplantation, end-to-end ureteroureterostomy was performed using microvascular technique (interrupted 10-0 suture) between the ureter of an implanted metanephros and the ureter of the kidney that had been removed. Four weeks later all remaining native renal tissue (the contralateral kidney) was removed from host rats, following which inulin and creatinine clearances were measured on 30 conscious rats after placement of an indwelling bladder catheter and intravenous line as described by Miller et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (1992) 89:11876-11880. Baseline

measurements for inulin were performed on urine and blood samples obtained prior to beginning the inulin infusions. These "background" values were subtracted from measurements performed after beginning the inulin infusion. Infusion of inulin was begun only following removal of all remaining native renal tissue and drainage of all  
5 urine remaining in the bladder (10-20  $\mu$ l). Only the implanted metanephros remained connected to the bladder. As a control, an attempt was made to measure clearances in rats that had undergone bilateral nephrectomy, but had no transplanted metanephros connected to the bladder. However, in contrast to the case in rats with a transplanted metanephros connected to the bladder (results discussed below), no  
10 urine appeared in the bladder catheter over a 3 hour collection time in rats that had no transplanted metanephros.

Plasma creatinines at the time of measurements (following removal of all native renal tissue) were  $1.3 \pm 0.06$  mg/dl, approximately 3-times normal. Inulin and creatinine clearances were  $0.11 \pm 0.02$  and  $0.65 \pm 0.18$   $\mu$ l/min/100g body weight respectively  
15 (mean  $\pm$  SE). The mean body weight of rats was  $238 \pm 3.0$ g. The mean weight of metanephroi was  $71 \pm 15$  mg. The mean volume of urine collected during 3 hours was  $49 \pm 13$   $\mu$ l. Inulin and creatinine clearances in a group of 5 normal rats of similar size were  $0.92 \pm 0.14$  and  $0.84 \pm 0.12$  ml/min/100 g respectively.

To define the relationship between the length of time post implantation and inulin clearance by metanephroi, clearances were measured at 12-16, 20-24 and 32 weeks post-implantation. The data, which is summarized in Table 3, demonstrate that metanephroi cleared inulin from the host's circulation for the full length of the experiment, as long as 32 weeks after implantation. The magnitude of clearances did not change significantly as a function of time. The weights and appearance of the  
25 transplanted metanephroi also did not change as a function of time in hosts.

TABLE 3

Time after implantation (weeks)	Inulin clearance ( $\mu$ l/min/100g rat weight)	Weight (mg)
5	12-16 (n=7) 20-24 (n=5) 32 (n=3)	0.23 ± 0.6 0.31 ± 0.13 0.34 ± 0.6
		72 ± 3.8 88 ± 9.7 76 ± 23

Data are expressed as mean ± SEM.

Example 5: Further reduction of host renal mass at the time of implantation or IGF-I administration to host to enhance metanephros development

10 The weights of transplanted metanephroi into the omentum of rats that had undergone unilateral nephrectomy with partial contralateral renal infarction at the time of implantation were increased more than 2-fold (145 vs 71 mg) and inulin clearances expressed per gram of kidney weight were increased more than 12-fold compared to values obtained in rats that underwent unilateral nephrectomy without 15 partial contralateral renal infarction. Urine volumes ( $145 \pm 24 \mu\text{l} / 3 \text{ hours}$ ) were also significantly increased ( $p < 0.005$ , Student's t test). These observations, coupled with the finding that growth and development of transplanted metanephroi do not occur if no native renal mass is removed at the time of implantation, indicate that the stimulus that results in compensatory renal growth following reduction of renal mass (see 20 Miller et al., *Am. J. Physiol.* (1990) 259:747-741) may also enhance the growth and development of transplanted metanephroi.

In further experiments, metanephroi were surgically dissected from E15 Sprague-Dawley rat embryos and implanted within 45 minutes in the omentum of anaesthetized 6 week old female Sprague Dawley (host) rats. During the same 25 surgery, host rats underwent unilateral nephrectomy, using the same procedures as described in Example 4. Four weeks following transplantation, end-to-end ureteroureterostomy was performed using microvascular technique between the ureter of a metanephros implanted in the omentum and the ureter of the kidney that had been removed. Three days following ureteroureterostomy, recombinant human 30 IGF I (Genentech Inc., South San Francisco, CA) was administered by Alzet pump infusion (60  $\mu\text{g}/\text{day}/\text{animal}$ ) into some of the rats. Eight to 12 weeks later, all

remaining native renal tissue (the contralateral kidney) was removed from host rats. For rats receiving IGF I treatment, growth factor treatment was ceased two days prior to removal of the contralateral kidney. An indwelling bladder catheter and intravenous line (see Rogers et al. *Kidney Intern'l* (1998) 54:27-37) were placed into 5 the rats. Inulin clearances were then measured on conscious rats. Baseline measurements for inulin were performed on urine and blood samples obtained prior to beginning the inulin infusions. These "background" values were subtracted from measurements performed after beginning the inulin infusion. Infusion of inulin was begun only following removal of all remaining native renal tissue and drainage of all 10 urine remaining in the bladder (10-20  $\mu$ l). Only the implanted metanephros remained connected to the bladder.

Inulin clearances at 12-16 weeks post-transplantation were measured in metanephroi from IGF I treated rats and rats that received no IGF I. As shown in Table 4 below, administration of the IGF significantly increased inulin clearances. Weights of 15 metanephroi were not significantly higher in IGF I treated rats. The appearances of of the transplanted metanephroi were similar in IGF I-treated and non-treated animals.

TABLE 4

	Implant (N=70)	Implant / IGF I Treatment
Weight (mg)	72 $\pm$ 10	87 $\pm$ 11
Urine volume ( $\mu$ l/hr)	31 $\pm$ 9	47 $\pm$ 10
Inulin Clearance ( $\mu$ l/min/100g)	0.23 $\pm$ 0.06	0.62 $\pm$ 0.13*
( $\mu$ l/min/g KW)	8.67 $\pm$ 2.83	19.8 $\pm$ 4.12*
( $\mu$ l/min/rat)	0.60 $\pm$ 0.18	1.70 $\pm$ 0.41*

\*Implant / IGF I treatment > Implant, p < 0.05 Student's test

Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SEM

Example 6: Growth factor treatment at the time of ureteroureterostomy to enhance 30 development of chimeric kidney

Four weeks following transplantation of metanephroi into the omentum of UNX rats, end-to-end ureterostomy was performed between the ureter of the transplanted metanephros and the ureter of the kidney that had been removed from the host. For

45 minutes after ureteroureterostomy, some metanephroi were bathed in 25 ul of a 50:50 mixture of Dulbecco's modified Eagles medium: Hams F12 (DMEM:HF12) containing recombinant human VEGF (Genentech Inc. South San Francisco CA) or DMEM:HF12 containing no additions.

- 5 Eight to twelve weeks later all remaining native renal tissue was removed from host rats, following which inulin clearances were measured in hosts. Inulin clearances of transplanted metanephroi that had been bathed with VEGF at the time of ureteroureterostomy ( $n = 3$ ) ( $1.6 \pm 0.37$  ul/min/100g) were elevated significantly ( $p < 0.05$ , Student's t test) compared to clearances in metanephroi that were not treated with VEGF ( $n = 4$ ) ( $0.21 \pm 0.06$  ul/min/100g). Urine volumes of metanephroi that had been bathed with VEGF ( $184 \pm 26$  ul/hour) were elevated significantly compared to urine volumes of non-treated metanephroi ( $34 \pm 10$  ul/hour).
- 10

Example 7: Growth Factor pretreatment to enhance development of chimeric kidney

For 45 minutes prior to implantation into  $1\frac{1}{2}$  NX host rats, metanephroi taken from day 15 embryonic rats were incubated at  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$  in 25 microliters of a 50:50 mixture of Dulbecco's modified Eagles medium:Hams F12 (DMEM:HF12) with or without growth factors. The growth-factor containing solution contained  $10^{-7}$  M IGF-I,  $10^{-7}$  M IGF-II,  $10^{-8}$  M TGF- $\alpha$ ,  $10^{-9}$  M HGF and 25  $\mu\text{g}$  VEGF. The metanephroi were implanted into the recipient rats using the methods described in Example 4. Ureteroureterostomies were performed 4 weeks later. Twelve weeks after ureteroureterostomies were performed, inulin clearances were measured in host rats after removal of all remaining native renal tissue. Following measurement of inulin clearance, metanephroi were removed from the hosts and weighed.

- 15
- 20

As shown in Table 5, weights of metanephroi that had been incubated in DMEM:HF12 containing growth factors were not different from weights of metanephroi that were incubated in DMEM:HF12 without growth factors. However, inulin clearances and urine volumes were increased 3-4 fold in metanephroi that had been incubated with the growth factors compared to values in metanephroi that had been incubated without growth factors.

- 25

TABLE 5

Group	Inulin clearance ( $\mu\text{l}/\text{min}/100\text{g rat}$ weight)	Weight ( $\mu\text{g}$ )	Urine volume ( $\mu\text{l}/\text{hour}$ )
UNX+ (n=5)	$0.43 \pm 0.16^{***}$	$84 \pm 24$	$34 \pm 7.1$
UNX+ and growth factors	$1.35 \pm 0.11$	$71 \pm 8.9$	$145 \pm 8.6^{**}$

5 \*UNX+ and growth factors > UNX+, p< 0.001, Multiple comparison procedure (C.W. Dunnett, *supra*).

Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SEM.

Example 8: Transplantation of pig metanephroi

The techniques for harvesting metanephroi, transplanting metanephroi into a recipient and for reducing host renal mass are similar to those employed on mice and rats, as described in Examples 1-6, except that microsurgical techniques are not necessary. Rather, surgeries are performed in an operating room using standard surgical techniques appropriate to large animals (see Cohn *et al.*, *supra*).

Metanephroi are surgically dissected under a dissecting microscope from pig embryos at an appropriate stage of embryonic development, which is approximately gestation week 4-6. If developed metanephric vasculature is evident and/or a significant number antigen-presenting cells are present, then less developed metanephroi are obtained. If the metanephroi do not sufficiently differentiate upon implantation, then metanephroi are obtained at a later developmental stage. Within 20 45 minutes of removal from the donor animals, the metanephroi are implanted the omentum of anaesthetized adult (host) pigs. During the same surgery, one kidney is removed (UNX) from the host pig, or a unilateral nephrectomy and partial contralateral renal infarction ( $1 \frac{1}{2} NX$ ) is performed.

In light of the fact that allogeneic transplantation of metanephroi into adult rats using 25 the above-described methods does not result in transplant rejection, it is expected that rejection of the pig metanephroi by the host pig will not occur. However, if rejection does occur, immunosuppression protocols can be devised using routine procedures.

After the implanted metanephroi have developed to the extent that ureters have formed, end-to-end ureteroureterostomy is performed using surgical technique (interrupted suture) between the ureter of a metanephros implanted in the omentum and the ureter of the kidney that had been removed. At the same time, or up to

5 about 6 weeks later depending upon the size and developmental state of the transplanted metanephros, all remaining native renal tissue (i.e. the remaining contralateral kidney) is removed from the host so that only the implanted metanephros remains connected to the bladder.

Baseline measurements for inulin are performed on urine and blood samples obtained prior to beginning the inulin infusions. These "background" values are subtracted from measurements performed after beginning the inulin infusion. At various time points following the removal of the contralateral kidney, inulin and creatine clearances are measured after placement of intraarterial, intravenous, and suprapubic bladder catheters into the pigs as in previous rat studies (Rogers et al.,  
15 supra). The chimeric kidney that results from the procedure is considered functional if inulin clearance is greater than or equal to 10% of normal. Additional parameters are considered to evaluate the growth and development of metanephroi including the diameter of transplanted metanephroi and the presence or absence of mature glomeruli and tubules.

20 Techniques and methods developed in the pig allotransplantation procedures are applied in clinical trials for xenotransplantation of pig metanephroi into humans with end-stage chronic renal failure. In addition, immunosuppression methods are used.

Example 9: Growth factor treatment for increasing inulin clearance of transplanted pig metanephroi

25 Using methods described in Example 8, pig metanephroi are implanted into adult pigs. Growth factors are administered to the host or to the metanephroi prior to implantation and/or post implantation to increase the glomerular filtration rate of the implanted metanephroi.

In one growth factor treatment protocol, porcine somatotropin (GH) (Monsanto  
30 Chemicals, St. Louis, MO), which stimulates IGF I production in pigs, is administered

to the host 2 mg/day IM beginning at the time of transplantation or after ureteroureterostomy. In another, IGF-I is administered to the pigs.

As another growth factor treatment, immediately after dissecting metanephroi from embryonic pigs, the metanephroi are incubated *in vitro* for up to 24 hours in

5 DMEM:HF12 containing  $10^{-7}$  M IGF-I,  $10^{-7}$  M IGF-II,  $10^{-8}$  M TGF- $\alpha$ ,  $10^{-9}$  M HGF and 1 mg/ml VEGF.

In further protocols, the *in vitro* and/or *in vivo* growth factor treatment utilizes one or more of the following growth factors: insulin-like growth factor I, insulin-like growth factor II, transforming growth factor alpha, transforming growth factor beta, acidic

10 fibroblast growth factor, basic fibroblast growth factor, vascular endothelial growth factor, platelet-derived growth factor, nerve growth factor, transferrin, prostaglandin E<sub>1</sub>, sodium selenite, vitamin A, and growth hormone.

The use of growth factor treatment in combination with reduction of native renal tissue, as described in Example 1 can be used to further enhance the function of the

15 implanted metanephroi.